

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 766

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the soldiers of the 269th Military Police Company, Tennessee Army National Guard, for their meritorious service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Volunteer State have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great Nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, established in 1887 by an act of the 45th General Assembly, the Tennessee National Guard is a dedicated collection of the finest men and women this State has to offer. Always vigilant and prepared for duty, the Tennessee National Guard has proven time and again its ability to protect fellow Tennesseans and Americans and those around the world in need of aid; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Tennessee National Guard selflessly serve with courage and gallantry and deserve to be recognized for heroism in the line of duty and model citizenship in our American society; and

WHEREAS, the soldiers of the 269th Military Police Company, Tennessee Army National Guard, stationed in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, under the command of Captain Jim Rodgers, are especially deserving of our deepest admiration and thanks for their valiant service during Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, this highly skilled unit deployed overseas from November 12, 2008, through November 12, 2009, leaving their families, friends, and loved ones behind for one year; and

WHEREAS, the 171 citizen-soldiers of the 269th Military Police Company served throughout Multinational Division-North as part of the 8<sup>th</sup> Military Police Brigade, training and mentoring Iraqi Police units to take the lead securing the people of Iraq and developing a more professional police force. They were stationed first at Forward Operating Base Brassfield-Mora and later at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, serving in Salah ah Din and Ninewah Provinces and performing the highly critical Police Transition Teams (PTT) mission in support of the Multi-National Forces – Iraq mission; and

WHEREAS, the unit conducted over 1,455 combat missions in the cities of Samarra, Hamaam al Alil and Mosul, driving over 165,000 combat miles while also conducting and supporting numerous training classes focused on the training of and partnership with the Iraqi Police Service; and

WHEREAS, the 269th Military Police Company also provided a Personnel Security Detail (PSD) for the Provincial Police Transition Team; and

WHEREAS, the company partnered with nine districts of the Iraqi Police Service and numerous local police stations, as well as several Emergency Response Battalions and other agencies of the Iraqi Police Service, building deep partnerships with the major crimes and intelligence units in Samarra, and pioneered cooperation with the Iraqi Police in Hamaam al Alil, building up an advising and partnership relationship where none previously existed; and

WHEREAS, the company was instrumental in the Iraqi Police Service's capture of an enemy bomber; and

WHEREAS, the soldiers operated in a joint and interagency environment, maintaining a deep partnership with police advisors from the U.S. State Department as well as Allied nations; and

WHEREAS, the unit encountered and engaged the enemy on numerous occasions; First Lieutenant William Eric Emmert, an agent of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation in his civilian career, was killed in action and five other soldiers were wounded and received Purple Hearts throughout the deployment; and

WHEREAS, the 269th Military Police Company conducted its operations with dignity and respect for both the Iraqi security forces and the Iraqi police, setting an example of policing to every agency it came into contact with; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 269th Military Police Company performed their duties with honor, distinction, and profound regard for the importance of their role in Operation Iraqi Freedom; their service can only be categorized as outstanding; their courageous service stands as an enduring example of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the members of the 269h Military Police Company, Tennessee Army National Guard, for their valiant service to our State and Nation while deployed as a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, extending to them our sincerest gratitude for preserving our freedom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.